

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

- 1-22. (Canceled)
23. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:
- (a) a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleic acid complementary to said nucleotide sequence, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide having the biological activity of side-shoot formation, petal formation, and abscission zone formation;
 - (b) a fragment ~~or derivative~~ of said nucleic acid or said complementary nucleic acid, wherein the fragment ~~or derivative~~ encodes a polypeptide having the biological activity of side shoot formation, petal formation, and abscission zone formation, said fragment or derivative hybridizing with said nucleic acid or said complementary nucleic acid under highly stringent conditions.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
26. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, wherein the nucleic acid has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
27. (Presently amended) A vector comprising ~~[[a]]~~the nucleic acid molecule of claim 23.

28. (Presently amended) A transformed plant cell comprising ~~[[a]]the~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is integrated in the genome of the plant cell.
29. (Presently amended) ~~[[A]]The~~ transformed plant cell according to claim 28, which can be regenerated into a seed producing plant.
30. (Previously presented) A transformed plant tissue comprising the transformed plant cell according to claim 28.
31. (Presently amended) ~~[[A]]The~~ transformed plant tissue according to claim 30, which can be regenerated it to a seed producing plant.
32. (Previously presented) A method for generating a plant having increased or suppressed side-shoot formation, petal formation and abscission zone formation, the method comprising:
- integrating a nucleic acid molecule of claim 23 into the genome of a plant cell or a plant tissue for increasing or suppressing side-shoot formation, petal formation and abscission zone formation; and
- regenerating the resulting plant cell or plant tissue into a regenerated plant, wherein the regenerated plant expresses increased or suppressed side-shoot formation, petal formation and abscission zone formation.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the regenerated plant expresses suppressed side-shoot formation, petal formation, and abscission zone formation.
34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the regenerated plant expresses increased side-shoot formation, petal formation, and abscission zone formation.

35. (Presently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein ~~the integrating step comprises integrating the nucleic acid molecule in an~~ is expressed as an antisense orientation relative to an endogenous sequence~~transcript~~.
36. (Presently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein ~~the integrating step comprises integrating the nucleic acid molecule in a sense orientation relative to an endogenous sequence~~ is transcribed and translated.
37. (Canceled) The method of claim 32, wherein the integrating step comprises integrating the nucleic acid molecule into a genomic region of a homologous endogenous gene by homologous recombination.
38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the regenerated plant is a tomato plant, a rape plant, a potato plant, or a snapdragon plant.
39. (Previously presented) A plant obtained by the method according to claim 32.
40. (Previously presented) A seed obtained from a plant according to claim 39.
41. (Previously presented) A plant comprising a transformed plant cell according to claim 28.
42. (Previously presented) A seed obtained from the plant according to claim 41.